

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/EE:WSSHEPARD/FDR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146829

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FIRST LINE PARAGRAPH 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,PFOR,OEXC,HU

SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH SZABO

1. IN JULY 5 TOUR D'HORIZON PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO HUNGARY ON LEAVE AMB SZABO REVIEWED WITH DEPUTY ASST SEC ARMITAGE COURSEUS-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS DURING PAST YEAR. CITING PERSONNEL INCREASES, TRAVEL PACKAGE AND VISITS BY SZITA AND ZARB, BOTH ARMITAGE AND SZABO ASSESSED COURSE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS GENERALLY FAVORABLE. EXCEPTIONS CITED BY ARMITAGE WERE HUNGARIAN ICCS PERFORMANCE AND DEAK CASE.

2. ON ICCS, ARMITAGE STRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT ADEQUATE ICCS FINANCIAL BACKING, PRESENT ICCS INACTIVITY, AND OUR HOPE GOH WILL SOON RETURN DELEGATION MEMBERS TO SUBREGIONAL SITES FROM WHICH IT HAS WITHDRAWN THEM. SZABO IN RETURN ASKED WHETHER WE HAD INFORMATION THAT SECURITY HAD IMPROVED IN THESE SUBREGIONAL SITES. ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT
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IN MOST OF THEM OTHER DELEGATIONS HAD NOTFOUND IT NECESSARY

TO WITHDRAW. IF GOH HAD SPECIFIC SECURITY PROBLEMS TO RAISE, IT COULD DO SO IN APPROPRIATE FORUM IN VIET-NAM. WE ARE GENERALLY VERY MUCH DISAPPOINTED IN ICCS PERFORMANCE. ICCS SHOULD DO A GOOD DEAL MORE USEFUL WORK IN IMPORTANT PEACE-KEEPING MISSION THAN IT HAS DONE AND WE HOPE FOR MORE VIGOROUS PERFORMANCE IN FUTURE.

3. ON DEAK CASE, ARMITAGE STATED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT OVER EVENTS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE DURING DEAK'S VISIT IN HUNGARY LAST MONTH. WE HAD TAKEN THE FACT OF HIS PERMISSION TO

RETURN AS A SYMBOL THAT OUR CULTURAL PROGRAMS COULD NOW MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT UNDUE IMPEDIMENTS. THEREFORE, SURVEILLANCE AND AIRPORT SEARCH DURING DEAK VISIT WERE DISAPPOINTING DEVELOPMENTS IN MATTER WE HAD CONSIDERED RESOLVED. IN REPLY, SZABO STATED DEAK EXAGGERATES (THREE TIMES), THAT MANY OTHER AIRLINE PASSENGERS ARE SEARCHED, AND STRESSED THAT WHEN HE (SZABO) TRAVELS ON AIRLINES WITHIN THE US, HE MUST EMPTY POCKETS AND SHOW BRIEFCASE CONTENTS, DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARD NOTWITHSTANDING. ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM, THAT SUCH A PROGRAM HAS MUCH TO OFFER FOR IMPROVEMENT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND THAT AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE PROGRAM IS FOR ITS PARTICIPANTS TO BE ABLE TO PROCEED WITHOUT HARASSMENT. SZABO SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER UPON HIS RETURN TO BUDAPEST (JULY 10 FOR SIX WEEKS), AND AGREED THAT WE MUST WORK FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS IN EXCHANGES AREA AS WELL.

4. MEMCON TEXT BEING POUCHED. SISCO

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